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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ADMINISTRATION
Washington, D. C.

PROVISIONS OF AAACT OF 1938 DEALING WITH WHEAT
MARKETING QUOTAS

PART III--MARKETING QUOTAS--WHEAT

Legislative Findings

SEC. 331. Wheat is a basic source of food for the Nation, is produced throughout the United States by more than a million farmers, is sold on the country-wide market and, as wheat or flour, flows almost entirely through instrumentalities of interstate and foreign commerce from producers to consumers.

Abnormally excessive and abnormally deficient supplies of wheat on the country-wide market acutely and directly affect, burden, and obstruct interstate and foreign commerce. Abnormally excessive supplies overtax the facilities of interstate and foreign transportation, congest terminal markets and milling centers in the flow of wheat from producers to consumers, depress the price of wheat in interstate and foreign commerce, and otherwise disrupt the orderly marketing of such commodity in such commerce. Abnormally deficient supplies result in an inadequate flow of wheat and its products in interstate and foreign commerce with consequent injurious effects to the instrumentalities of such commerce and with excessive increases in the prices of wheat and its products in interstate and foreign commerce.

It is in the interest of the general welfare that interstate and foreign commerce in wheat and its products be protected from such burdensome surpluses and distressing shortages, and that a supply of wheat be maintained which is adequate to meet domestic consumption and export requirements in years of drought, flood, and other adverse conditions as well as in years of plenty, and that the soil resources of the Nation be not wasted in the production of such burdensome surpluses. Such surpluses result in disastrously low prices of wheat and other grains to wheat producers, destroy the purchasing power of grain producers for industrial products, and reduce the value of the agricultural assets supporting the national credit structure. Such shortages of wheat result in unreasonably high prices of flour and bread to consumers and loss of market outlets by wheat producers.

The conditions affecting the production and marketing of wheat are such that, without Federal assistance, farmers, individually or in cooperation, cannot effectively prevent the recurrence of such surpluses and shortages and the burdens on interstate and foreign commerce resulting therefrom, maintain normal supplies of wheat, or provide for the orderly marketing thereof in interstate and foreign commerce.

The provisions of this Part affording a cooperative plan to wheat producers are necessary in order to minimize recurring surpluses and shortages of wheat in interstate and foreign commerce, to provide for the maintenance of adequate reserve supplies thereof, and to provide for

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an adequate flow of wheat and its products in interstate and foreign commerce. The provisions hereof for regulation of marketings by producers of wheat whenever an abnormally excessive supply of such commodity exists are necessary in order to maintain an orderly flow of wheat in interstate and foreign commerce under such conditions.

PROCLAMATIONS OF SUPPLIES AND ALLOTMENTS

SEC. 332. Not later than July 15 of each marketing year for wheat the Secretary shall ascertain and proclaim the total supply and the normal supply of wheat for such marketing year, and the national acreage allotment for the next crop of wheat.

NATIONAL ACREAGE ALLOTMENT

SEC. 333. The national acreage allotment for any crop of wheat shall be that acreage which the Secretary determines will, on the basis of the national average yield for wheat, produce an amount thereof adequate, together with the estimated carry-over at the beginning of the marketing year for such crop, to make available a supply for such marketing year equal to a normal year's domestic consumption and exports plus 50 per centum thereof. The national acreage allotment for wheat for 1938 shall be sixty-two million five hundred thousand acres. The national acreage allotment for wheat for any year shall be not less than fifty-five million acres.

APPORTIONMENT OF NATIONAL ACREAGE ALLOTMENT

SEC. 334. (a) The national acreage allotment for wheat shall be apportioned by the Secretary among the several States on the basis of the acreage seeded for the production of wheat during the ten calendar years immediately preceding the calendar year in which the national acreage allotment is determined (plus, in applicable years, the acreage diverted under previous agricultural adjustment and conservation programs), with adjustments for abnormal weather conditions and for trends in acreage during such period.

(b) The State acreage allotment for wheat shall be apportioned by the Secretary among the counties in the State, on the basis of the acreage seeded for the production of wheat during the ten calendar years immediately preceding the calendar year in which the national acreage allotment is determined (plus, in applicable years, the acreage diverted under previous agricultural adjustment and conservation programs), with adjustments for abnormal weather conditions and trends in acreage during such period and for the promotion of soil-conservation practices.

(c) The allotment to the county shall be apportioned by the Secretary, through the local committees, among the farms within the county on the basis of tillable acres, crop-rotation practices, type of soil, and topography. Not more than 3 per centum of such county allotment shall be apportioned to farms on which wheat has not been planted during any of the three marketing years immediately preceding the marketing year in which the allotment is made.

MARKETING QUOTAS

SEC. 335. (a) Whenever it shall appear that the total supply of wheat as of the beginning of any marketing year will exceed a normal year's domestic consumption and exports by more than 35 per centum, the Secretary shall, not later than the May 15 prior to the beginning of such marketing year, proclaim such fact and, during the marketing year beginning July 1 and continuing throughout such marketing year, a national marketing quota shall be in effect with respect to the marketing of wheat. The Secretary shall ascertain and specify in the proclamation the amount of the national marketing quota in terms of a total quantity of wheat and also in terms of a marketing percentage of the national acreage allotment for the current crop which he determines will, on the basis of the national average yield of wheat, produce the amount of the national marketing quota. Marketing quotas for any marketing year shall be in effect with respect to wheat harvested in the calendar year in which such marketing year begins notwithstanding that the wheat is marketed prior to the beginning of such marketing year. No marketing quota with respect to the marketing of wheat shall be in effect for the marketing year beginning July 1, 1938, unless prior to the date of the proclamation of the Secretary, provision has been made by law for the payment, in whole or in part, in 1938 of parity payments with respect to wheat.

(b) The amount of the national marketing quota for wheat shall be equal to a normal year's domestic consumption and exports plus 30 per centum thereof, less the sum of (1) the estimated carry-over of wheat as of the beginning of the marketing year with respect to which the quota is proclaimed and (2) the estimated amount of wheat which will be used on farms as seed or livestock feed during the marketing year.

(c) The farm marketing quota for any farm for any marketing year shall be a number of bushels of wheat equal to the sum of—

- (1) A number of bushels equal to the normal production or the actual production, whichever is the greater, of the farm acreage allotment; and
- (2) A number of bushels equal to the amount, or part thereof, of wheat from any previous crop which the farmer has on hand which, had such amount, or part thereof, been marketed during the preceding marketing year in addition to the wheat actually marketed during such preceding marketing year, could have been marketed without penalty.
- (3) Any farmer who does not market wheat in excess of the normal production or the actual production, whichever is the greater, of the farm acreage allotment shall not be subject to penalty under the provisions of section 339. Any farmer who stores, in accordance with regulations issued by the Secretary, an amount of wheat which is less than the amount subject to penalty, shall be presumed to have marketed the amount of such wheat subject to penalty which is not so stored.

(d) No farm marketing quota with respect to wheat shall be applicable in any marketing year to any farm on which the normal production of the acreage planted to wheat of the current crop is less than one hundred bushels.

REFERENDUM

SEC. 336. Between the date of the issuance of any proclamation of any national marketing quota for wheat and June 10, the Secretary shall conduct a referendum, by secret ballot, of farmers who will be subject to the quota specified therein to determine whether such farmers favor or oppose such quota. If more than one-third of the farmers voting in the referendum oppose such quota, the Secretary shall, prior to the effective date of such quota, by proclamation suspend the operation of the national marketing quotas with respect to wheat.

ADJUSTMENT AND SUSPENSION OF QUOTAS

SEC. 337. (a) If the total supply as proclaimed by the Secretary within forty-five days after the beginning of the marketing year is less than that specified in the proclamation by the Secretary under section 335 (a), then the national marketing quota specified in the proclamation under such section shall be increased accordingly.

(b) Whenever it shall appear from either the July or the August production estimates, officially published by the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the Department, that the total supply of wheat as of the beginning of the marketing year was less than a normal year's domestic consumption and export plus 50 per centum thereof, the Secretary shall proclaim such fact prior to July 20, or August 20, as the case may be, if farm marketing quotas have been announced with respect to the crop grown in such calendar year. Thereupon such quotas shall become ineffective.

TRANSFER OF QUOTAS

SEC. 338. Farm marketing quotas for wheat shall not be transferable, but, in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary for such purpose, any farm marketing quota in excess of the supply of wheat for such farm for any marketing year may be allocated to other farms on which the acreage allotment has not been exceeded.

PENALTIES

SEC. 339. Any farmer who, while farm marketing quotas are in effect markets wheat in excess of the farm marketing quota for the farm on which such wheat was produced, shall be subject to a penalty of 15 cents per bushel of the excess so marketed.

